

Prayer List



Of Our Number

- ◆ Janice Carnley—Shoal Creek
- ◆ Wilfred Derrick—health problems
- ◆ Jeff Mashburn—health problems

Others in Need

- ◆ Travis Barrow—health problems
- ◆ Shannon Burn—surgery recovery
- ◆ Danny Davis—back pain
- ◆ Louise Douglas—health problems
- ◆ Joyce Faulk—health problems
- ◆ Dawn Holloway—at home, IV meds
- ◆ Tony Jones—recent stroke and fall
- ◆ Lauretta Kyser—(Korah N.'s grandmother, in hospital)
- ◆ Mary Milsted—lung cancer
- ◆ Thomas Patterson—health issues
- ◆ Shane Price—cancer
- ◆ Larry Shapple—hospice care
- ◆ Melanie Skinner—cancer
- ◆ Storm victims in eastern USA, India, and Pakistan
- ◆ Pray for Christians overseas, such as those facing persecution in

Continued in next column...

Pakistan and certain parts of India.

- ◆ Pray for peace, pray for the bereaved, the persecuted, sick/suffering, civil leaders, military, 1st responders, sound Bible schools, the lost, enemies.

Events



December 8

Men's Meeting

No fellowship meals in December and January

Our Faith and Fellowship for December has been postponed until February

Faithful Worship — **1) Praying** to God the Father in the name of Jesus Christ (Luke 11:1-2; John 16:23; Eph. 5:20; Phil. 4:6); **2) Singing** without mechanical instruments (Matt. 26:30; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16-17; Heb. 2:12); **3) Preaching** God's Word (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:42; 20:7); **4) Giving** weekly as prospered, cheerfully (1 Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 9:7); **5) The Lord's Supper** on the first day of every week (Matt. 26:26-28; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:20-34; 16:2; Heb. 10:23-31).

To Our Visitors



We are happy and honored that you are here! Please fill out a visitor's card and give us a chance to get to know you. If you have any questions about anything said or done in Bible class or worship, please ask. We seek to give a Bible answer for everything we do (Colossians 3:17; 1 Peter 3:15; 4:11).

Privileged to Serve



Announcements: Mark Howze

Song Leading: Sunday—David Howze; Wednesday—Ethan Howze

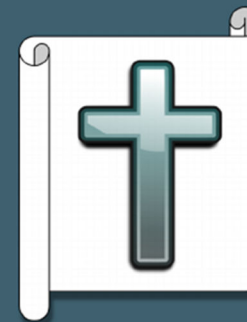
Serving the Lord's Supper

Head: Leo Derrick; Helpers: Johnny Moss, Ezra Howze, Caleb Howze

Lord's Supper PM

Head: Mark Howze
Helper: Caleb Howze

Bible Reading: Braden Hilburn



THE BAKER BULLETIN

The weekly bulletin of

The church of Christ in Baker, FL

December 1, 2024

Meeting Times

Sundays:

10AM Bible Class

11AM Worship

6PM Worship

Wednesdays:

7PM Bible Class

Other Information

5761 Hwy. 4

P.O. Box 285

Baker, FL 32531 USA

850-669-9117

Website:

churchofChristatBaker.com

Radio Program:

104.7FM Sundays 8:30AM

WAAZ1047.com livestream

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Why I Got Baptized Again

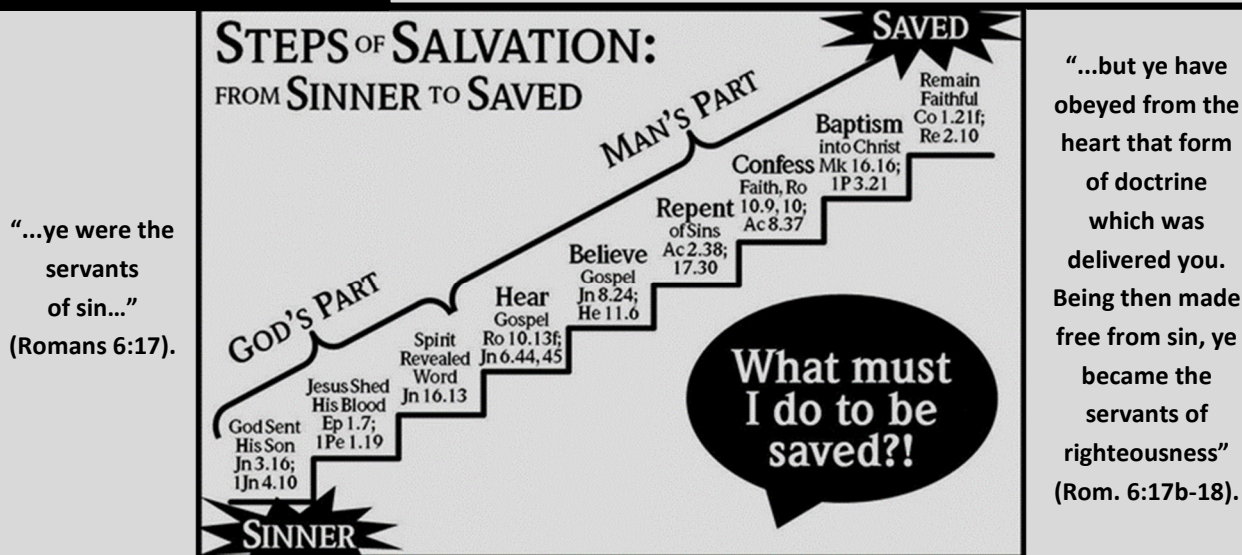
Jason Patrick Hilburn

I grew up in the Baptist church, and one day in worship I decided I wanted to be saved, so I went to the front and the preacher prayed with me. They told me I was saved at that point, and I was not baptized on that day, because they believe water baptism has nothing to do with salvation, so my baptism was delayed. It was days or weeks later when I was baptized in water.

Several years later I was engaged to a young lady (now my wife) who was, and still is, a member of the church of Christ. I began attending with her, and one Sunday night after worship the preacher asked me if he could talk to me, so we went into a classroom, and he began showing me Scriptures I had never considered. The Scripture that really hit home for me was Acts 22:16: "And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord." Biblical baptism is to "wash away sins," and I had been taught that baptism has nothing to do with washing away sins.

I also learned that in the Bible baptism was never delayed until a "Baptism Sunday" or anything similar, because people understood they were not going to Heaven unless they got baptized to have their sins forgiven. Acts 2 records about three thousand people being baptized in one day "for the forgiveness of sins" (2:37-41); the Ethiopian was baptized as soon as he saw water and did not rejoice until after baptism (Acts 8:35-39); Saul had been fasting three days but would not eat until after he was baptized to wash away his sins (Acts 9:18-19; 22:16); and the Philippian jailor was baptized "straightway" (immediately) in the middle of the night (Acts 16:33). The Bible repeatedly stresses the urgency of water baptism.

STEPS OF SALVATION: FROM SINNER TO SAVED



"...ye were the servants of sin..." (Romans 6:17).

"...but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness" (Rom. 6:17b-18).

What must I do to be saved?!

After seeing the Truth, I wanted to be baptized immediately. That night I was immersed for the second time in my life, and it was that second time that my sins were actually washed away, because I needed a proper understanding of what I was doing for it to be effective. Being Biblically baptized is not simply something done outwardly—it must be *“obeyed from the heart”* (mind) with sincerity and a proper understanding of its purpose to make one *“free from sin”* (Romans 6:17-18; compare 6:3-5).

Did you know the Ephesians were baptized (immersed) in water twice? (Acts 19:1-5). Paul required it of them, because the first time they had not done it exactly the way God said. Similarly to me, they had not been taught correctly and needed to be immersed again after gaining a proper understanding. This account, along with the fact that the Bible repeatedly teaches that God requires men to do things exactly the way He said, should motivate every person who has been baptized to seriously consider whether it was done exactly as God said, with a proper understanding.

If you have been baptized in water, please consider the following Biblical criteria and compare these to the baptism you received. True Biblical baptism requires:

- The correct **subject** – a penitent believer in Jesus as the risen Son of God (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 8:35-37)
- The correct **confession** – confessing one’s faith in Christ to people, which is not a prayer (Matthew 10:32; Acts 8:35-37)
- The correct **mode** – complete immersion, a burial in water (Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:12; see also Thayer’s Greek Lexicon)
- The correct **authority** – *“into the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,”* which is the same as *“in the name of Jesus”* (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 2:38)
- The correct **purpose** – for *“forgiveness of sins,”* for salvation, to be added to Christ’s one true church, not a man-made church/denomination (Matthew 16:18; Acts 2:36-41, 47; 22:16; Ephesians 5:23-26; 1 Peter 3:20-21)
- The correct **result** – after water baptism one has been born again, of water and the Spirit (John 3:5); he is a new child of God, free from all sin, and an heir of the greatest inheritance ever! (John 14:1-3; Romans 8:17; Galatians 3:26-29; Ephesians 5:25-26; 1 Peter 1:3-4)

It is safe to say that churches who regularly delay baptisms are not teaching the same purpose of baptism found in the Bible; else they would not postpone it, but rather stress the urgency of it. If your baptism was put off until later, even though they believed you were ready for baptism, that indicates that the purpose of your baptism was different than the Biblical purpose. Even if urgency was stressed, all the criteria above are critical.

Dear reader, did you understand the Biblical criteria above when you were baptized? Do you need to be immersed again with a proper understanding, like the Ephesians? The fact that Paul required them to be immersed twice shows that details do matter! Your soul is too precious to risk. Heaven is too wonderful to miss, and Hell will be more terrible than we can imagine. Please seriously consider these words written in Christian love.

<http://www.JasonsBibleBlog.com>

Three Barriers to Spiritual Growth

1. The Comfort Zone:

- ▶ Explanation: Staying within familiar routines and mindsets can hinder growth because we are not pushing ourselves to deepen our faith or serve in new ways.
- ▶ Scripture: Consider Romans 12:2, where Paul calls believers to “be transformed by the renewing of your mind,” which requires stepping out of old patterns.
- ▶ Application: Challenge yourself to engage in spiritual practices that stretch you—such as sharing your faith, increasing time in prayer, or volunteering in areas outside your usual comfort.

2. Learned Helplessness (“I Cannot Do It” Attitude):

- ▶ Explanation: This mindset reflects a belief that we are unable to change or grow, often due to past failures or a lack of trust in God’s power.
- ▶ Scripture: Philippians 4:13, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me,” reminds us that with God, we are capable of more than we might believe.
- ▶ Application: Recognize areas where you have limited yourself. Replace “I cannot” with “Through God, I can” and rely on His strength rather than your own.

3. The Path Of Least Resistance:

- ▶ Explanation: Choosing the easiest way can lead to avoiding difficult decisions, spiritual disciplines, or sacrifices that are essential for growth.
- ▶ Scripture: Jesus tells us in Matthew 7:13-14, that the narrow road is hard, but it leads to life. Spiritual growth often requires taking this more challenging path.
- ▶ Application: Evaluate if you are avoiding something spiritually challenging. Commit to the hard, faithful choice, even if it is uncomfortable or demanding.

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